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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 NRC-05 OES-07 DOE-15
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APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
EUR/RPM:LBRECKON
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DOD/AE:MAJ GEN KEY
JCS/J-5:COL PARRISH

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S E C R E T STATE 078937

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJECT: THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES - SHORT-TERM MEASURES

REFS: (A) USNATO 02921 (DTG 211019Z MAR 78);
(B) USNATO 02790 (DTG 171027Z MAR 78)

1. SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WE GENERALLY
CONCUR WITH USNATO COMMENTS CONTAINED IN REF (B).

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2. US IS STILL REVIEWING SPECIFIC MEASURES LISTED
IN MNC'S SHORT-TERM MEASURES REPORT. WE WILL PROVIDE
CONSIDERED US POSITIONS ON EACH MEASURE IN DUE COURSE.

3. AS FOR HANDLING OF MNC REPORT, YOU MAY APPROVE
THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO NPG (PERMREPS AND THEN MINISTERS)
FOR DISCUSSION AND NOTING, ONCE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS

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COMPLETED ITS ACTION ON REPORT. IN PREPARATION OF
TRANSMITTAL LETTER AND IN DISCUSSIONS, YOU SHOULD AVOID
IMPLYING EITHER ENDORSEMENT OR NON-ENDORSEMENT OF ANY
OF THE SPECIFIC MEASURES. YOU MAY NOTE THAT OVERALL
REPORT PROVIDES EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF NATO'S CURRENT
TNF POSTURE AND IS THUS WELL WORTH DISCUSSION. IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF AT LEAST SOME OF THE MEASURES WOULD SERVE TO
PRESERVE AND EXTEND WIDESPREAD ALLIED PARTICIPATION IN
THE NUCLEAR DETERRENT AND PLUG SOME GAPS IN THE TNF POSTURE.

4. AFTER PERMREP AND MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS, WE
WOULD SEE THE PERMREPS BEING TASKED WITH FURTHER
DISPOSITION OF THE MEASURES. WE WOULD NOT REPEAT
NOT SEE HIGH LEVEL GROUP IN ROLE OF ADDRESSING
SPECIFIC MEASURES, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT ITS
FUTURE ROLE ALSO REMAINS TO BE DETERMINED. PERMREPS
COULD ADDRESS THE MEASURES MUCH LIKE FORCE PROPOSALS
ARE ADDRESSED. INDEED, MANY OF THE MEASURES HAVE
ALREADY BEEN SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED IN THE FORCE
PLANNING PROCESS. WE SEE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF
EACH MEASURE BY PERMREPS INCLUDING BENEFITS AND
ANY POLITICAL INHIBITIONS THAT MAY HAVE AFFECTED
PAST ACTION OR INACTION. SPECIFIC ACTIONS ON
THE MEASURES MUST EVENTUALLY BE DETERMINED BY
INDIVIDUAL NATIONS. WE DO NOT SEE ANY NECESSITY
TO ASSIGN PRIORITIES TO THE MEASURES, ESPECIALLY
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SINCE COSTS DO NOT SEEM TO BE THE DRIVING FACTOR.

5. FYI. WE NEED TO CONSIDER THE SHORT-TERM MEASURES
ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS TO INSURE IN PART THEIR
COMPATIBILITY WITH WHATEVER LONG RANGE PROGRAM THE
ALLIANCE SETS UP. ANY SHIFT IN NATO'S TNF POSTURE
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE EVOLUTIONARY, AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF AT LEAST SOME OF THESE MEASURES SHOULD SERVE TO
MAINTAIN ALLIED PARTICIPATION AND PLUG GAPS IN
POSTURE IN THE INTERIM. US MAY HAVE DIFFICULTIES
WITH SOME MEASURES, E.G., TRANSPORT OF WEAPONS IN
NON-US AIRCRAFT, BUT WE DO NOT WANT THESE DIFFICULTIES
TO SURFACE TOO EARLY BEFORE GENERALLY POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE
HAS BEEN CREATED FOR EXAMINING ALL THE MEASURES. END FYI.

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